Sanctions on Iran

2703. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that United Nations Security Council has voted to impose fresh set of sanctions against Iran despite the satisfactory resolution of all concrete issues surrounding its previous nuclear activities; and

(b) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes. On 3rd March, 2008, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1803, calling for: (i) an expansion of travel restrictions to more Iranian individuals; (ii) prohibiting the sale, supply or transfer of dual use items to Iran; (iii) imposing a freeze on assets of Iranian individuals and entities listed in the resolution, and requiring the exercise of vigilance with regard to extending new export credits and activities of financial institutions with all banks domiciled in Iran; and (iv) inspection of cargo to and from Iran if there are reasonable grounds to believe that these contain goods and items prescribed by UNSC Resolutions 1803, 1737 and 1747.

Government's consistent view has been that Iran has a right to develop peaceful use of nuclear energy while fulfilling all its obligations and commitments. The Iran nuclear issue should be resolved through peaceful diplomacy, and the framework of IAEA provides the best forum to address technical aspects of the issue.

Issues discussed with US President

2704. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the specific issues discussed with US President and other officials during his recent visit to the US;

(b) whether any agreements were signed between the two Governments as a result of the discussions held; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) External Affairs Minister visited Washington, USA during 24-25 March, 2008. He called on US President Mr George Bush and met his counterpart, US Secretary of State, Dr Condoleezza Rice and discussed all aspects of Indo-US relations including economic ties, defence cooperation and the civil nuclear agreement, as well as regional issues. Important international developments including climate change and the need for a successful conclusion of the Doha Round were also discussed.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Celebration of Indian festivals

2705. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: